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INSIDE EIGHT PAGES FROM SUNDAY'S

## The New York Times

WEEKLY REVIEW

### Ross returns to seal Hebron deal

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

US SPECIAL Middle East peace talks envoy Dennis Ross arrives today in a bid to shepherd the final stages of the protracted Hebron talks to a successful conclusion in the coming days.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has said he hopes the agreement will be initiated Wednesday. One US official said Washington is heartened by what they call Egypt's support for the Palestinians "wrapping up" the talks, in contrast to past opposition.

Arafat returned from Cairo last night for talks with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to finalize Hebron security issues. The two were to meet at the Erez Checkpoint beginning at 10:30 p.m.

Earlier in the day, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met in Jerusalem to draft a protocol that will allow the Jewish settlement some control over building in its area and will limit the height of Arab building in the immediate vicinity.

Palestinians went out of their way to say nothing had yet been finalized, and Arafat said in Cairo that all issues were still open. But he has used this as a tactic to add weight to the Palestinians' demands in the past. PA officials have privately admitted this, and no major changes are expected between now and signing the final agreement.

Officials in Jerusalem sharply deny reports of unnamed Palestinian officials suggesting that Israel will give dates on all three further pullbacks. One such official said that Israel would only be providing a definite date for the first pullback.

A US official said last night that if the past is a guide, an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement would not be complete without a finalistic last minute crisis, so each side can convince skeptical colleagues that everything has been tried.

The one issue that Israelis and Palestinians have not found a joint formula on concerns a Palestinian official presence at the Machpela Cave. For security reasons, the previous government demanded exclusive control there, fearing that divided control could only encourage rather than discourage incidents. A joint mobile patrol based at the Cave may resolve the difficulty.

Arafat is now trying to secure a Palestinian presence at the Machpela Cave in direct talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, since it is not to be found in the Hebron guidelines of the Oslo 2 agreement.

The US official expressed annoyance with Palestinians, who in their words, "are trying to reopen issues which we have already closed. This has been their tactic for years, namely to use the expectation of an agreement to win last-minute concessions."

A US document spelling out the (Continued on Page 9)



Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz (left) and Trade Union Department head Shlomo Shani talk to reporters yesterday after Shani was released from police custody. (Assaf Shilo/Israel Sun)

### Left, Right MKs may abstain in Hebron no-confidence vote

LIAT COLLINS

MKS from both ends of the political spectrum are threatening to abstain in today's no-confidence vote over the Hebron agreement.

Moledet filed the motion last week. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is scheduled to meet with opposition MKs before the vote to persuade them to support him in the plenum vote.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said his faction's MKs will abstain because, "although Meretz has no confidence whatsoever in this government, it cannot join Moledet in its efforts to torpedo the redeployment."

Labor MKs are scheduled to meet this morning to discuss how to vote. Yesterday, party leader Shimon Peres and faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen met and said they would advise the faction to abstain.

"This is the first opportunity to topple the government, but on the other hand the faction is committed to the peace process. The faction will demand that the Hebron agreement be submitted to the Knesset to enable MKs to study it and form an opinion," Cohen said.

MK Dafna Itzik (Labor) said the party should vote against the government, even over an issue like the Hebron agreement, if there is a real chance that it could bring the government down. She said Labor would win if new elections were held and then it could carry on the peace process.

MK Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher) said he will vote against the government in the no-confidence motion unless the prime minister promises to bring the Hebron agreement to a vote in the Knesset.

### Striking today

- Ports, except for tending to perishable products
- Bezeq
- Banks
- Post offices
- Government health services and Kupat Holim Clalit will function on emergency schedules
- Social workers
- Government offices
- Customs and VAT Authority will be closed to the public
- Local authorities
- Israel Broadcasting Authority, except for news broadcasts
- WIZO and Na'amat day care centers
- Trains
- Histadrut
- Magen David Adom and the Fire and Rescue services will operate on a Shabbat schedule
- Employee bus drivers

## Histadrut to escalate strike

SARAH HONG

THE Histadrut plans to escalate its concerted campaign of scheduled selective strikes in different sectors of the economy today, after throwing the country into chaos yesterday afternoon with wildcat strikes said to cause considerable losses both in financial terms and in terms of the country's economic prestige.

Numerous sectors of the economy are to be effected as of 6 this morning (see box).

Airports are to be spared today, after 60 scheduled flights were disrupted due to yesterday afternoon's sudden walkout, but on the heels of a strike last Thursday (see story, Page 2). The school system also will be unaffected today. At 4 p.m. the Histadrut top brass will meet to decide where strike action will hit tomorrow.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor lashed out at the Histadrut and accused it of sponsoring a political campaign against the government. The employers urged Netanyahu last night to seek back-to-work orders and threatened to withhold deductions from employees' wages which constitute the chief source of income for the Histadrut.

The spark which ostensibly led to the wildcat action at midday yesterday was the detention of Histadrut Trade Union Department chairman Shlomo Shani, who had gone underground over the weekend after the Tel Aviv Labor Court ruled him in contempt. This followed his violation of an order to limit Thursday's strikes in the ports and railroads system to three hours.

Yesterday Shani was picked up by police after he showed up at a Haifa Chemicals demonstration. Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz immediately ordered employees in all sectors of the economy to walk out over what he charged was the first ever attempt in the country to infringe upon the right to strike. His call was heeded at Ben-Gurion Airport, where it caused chaos, at banks, the train system, radio and TV, several private plants and, for 20 minutes at the close of the business day, even in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

More strike coverage, Page 2

This came on top of scheduled strikes by Electric Cooperation employees, Bezeq and the ports, where the work stoppage is entering its second week and causing particularly great losses.

The wildcat side of the dispute ended some five hours after it began, when the Tel Aviv Labor Court agreed to let Shani go. Earlier in the day there were demonstrations in front of the Histadrut offices at Tel Aviv's Arlozoroff Street, complete with burning tires and the halting of traffic on this major artery.

Netanyahu branded the strike "blatantly political, irresponsible and utterly without any grounds or justification." He added that the "country does not belong to the Histadrut, contrary to what it may think. The state is not its private property."

Representatives of employers' (Continued on Page 9)

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### BANK HAPOLIM

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KESHER BARCEL

### Homeless man dies from exposure

RAINE MARCUS

A HOMELESS man in his twenties was found dead of exposure yesterday in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market.

The man had refused to go to a hospital for treatment three times during the past few days, Magen David Adom spokesman Shuki Gutman said.

MDA ambulances were called to the market three times to treat the man in recent days, and were called again yesterday, but it was too late and he was pronounced dead.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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NEWS

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# PM, settlers give conflicting account of meeting

THREE Hebron settlement leaders met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday. One of them, Ya'acov Ben-Taryah, said the delegation left the meeting feeling like the biblical Joseph pleading for help on the edge of the pit full of scorpions, and hearing his brothers respond to him: "Go to hell."

The Prime Minister's Office, in contrast, released a statement after the meeting saying that the delegation, which also include Yeshivat Shavei Hebron head Moshe Bleicher and Hillel Horowitz, came to "show support for Netanyahu and to express their concern for the settlement."

"The prime minister made it clear to them that the IDF is not leaving Hebron, but only redeploying, and that the IDF forces will remain in the Jewish section of the city and will continue to provide security for the city's Jews," the statement read.

"We left the meeting with a difficult feeling," Ben-Taryah said. "Not against the man, but against what is happening on the ground."

Ben-Taryah said the group discussed their fears with Netanyahu, and that he listened and said, "He is trying." Ben-Taryah quoted Netanyahu as saying he can not do any-

HERB KEINON

thing about what the settlement claims are plans for released Palestinian prisoners to move into houses the Palestinian Authority is renovating directly adjacent to the Abraham Avinu compound.

"What good is a joint patrol on a hill going to do me," Ben-Taryah asked, "if released murderers are going to be living three meters from my window?"

Meanwhile, Match Ma'amatz, the group that has organized dozens of protests against the Labor government and the Oslo agreements over the past four years, said yesterday it will not currently protest against the government.

"This is our government," said Ya'acov Novick, head of Match Ma'amatz. "He [Netanyahu] wants what we want. He is not like [former prime minister Shimon] Peres, who gave Arafat everything he wanted."

Novick said he did not want to "speculate" when asked if the decision not to protest, and not to join a call coming from other right-wing groups for volunteers to go to Hebron in expectation of the redeployment, is based on information

that the signing of the agreement may not take place this week.

Novick distanced himself from the ads appearing on Arutz 7, under the headline "Draft notice: We are returning to the struggle for Eretz Yisrael," calling for the names, addresses and phone numbers of volunteers willing to take part in protest actions.

David Wilder, a spokesman for the Hebron settlement, said one plan the settlement is considering is to bring hundreds of people to Hebron, not to confront the IDF, but rather to provide moral support and add to the sense of security for the 54 families living in the city.

"If there is a signing," Wilder said, "things here will change. It is important for people to come and stay as long as they can, to show support to the community."

Meanwhile, two firebombs were thrown near Beit Hadassah yesterday, and two more firebombs were hurled at an IDF patrol on the Halhool bypass road, as a wave of firebombs in the area continues. No injuries or damage were reported.

In a separate incident, a car belonging to a Palestinian Authority official was set alight in Hebron yesterday, about 100 meters from the Abraham Avinu compound.

# Zo Artzenu calls to indict Peretz for sedition

HERB KEINON

ZO Artzenu head Moshe Feiglin, on trial for sedition for his part in organizing a political protest last year that blocked a number of the country's roads, called on the attorney general to start legal proceedings against Amir Peretz for his part in closing down much of the country yesterday.

In a letter to Michael Ben-Yair, Feiglin wrote, "I am honored to file a criminal complaint against the Histadrut general secretary for sedition and breaking criminal laws with the general strike, contravening the law that obligates a cooling down period [before a strike]."

"I do not need to explain my complaint," Feiglin wrote, "and I have the honor of referring you to the state's attorney who accused me and my colleagues of acts that do not come close to those of Peretz, who shut down the entire country, caused billions of shekels of damage, led to an amount of suffering to the majority of citi-

zens in the state that is impossible to estimate - and all this without any real reason, only because of a power struggle and for political goals."

Feiglin, on trial in Jerusalem's Magistrates court with Shmuel Sackett, wrote that if Ben-Yair does not open criminal proceedings against Peretz, "I will bring this complaint, as an example of the rule of law under your guidance, to the court where the charges of sedition against me are being heard."

Moledet MK Benny Elon, who was indicted with Feiglin and Sackett but whose trial has been postponed because in the meantime he won a Knesset seat and is accompanying immunity, said he is "disgusted by the hypocritical march of the 'defenders of the law' who are encouraging breaking the law, contempt of court and organized sedition in bringing down the government outside of the Knesset."

# Finance Committee approves end to women's tax credit

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee approved the elimination of the half tax-credit for married women yesterday, but it is still not clear the government can get the proposal through the plenum.

The committee also approved the 1997 budget yesterday, with only minor amendments.

The cancellation of the half tax-credit, which is expected to save the government NIS 270 million next year, was approved 9-8 on a nearly straight party-line vote.

The vote angered women's groups and opposition MKs. "This is a government that hates women," said Rafi Elul (Labor). And Na'amat, the women's branch of the Histadrut, repeated the exact same statement.

The only coalition MK to vote against the cut was Michael Kleiner (Likud-Gesher), who said that

while he personally supports cancelling the credit, he received orders from his party to vote against it on the grounds that it would hurt some lower-income women.

"We're also bothered by the fact that they told us there was no money [for social issues]... but there seems to be NIS 1 billion for all kinds of coalition agreements," Kleiner said, adding that this seems to be the real reason for the sudden decision to cancel the tax credit.

The remainder of the coalition stayed with the government, even though some were personally opposed to the proposal. Silvan Shalom (Likud), who heads the coalition in the committee, said he thought cancellation of the credit was wrong. However, he said, the

government only came up with this idea to replace some of the proposals the committee mixed last week - such as a planned cut in child allowances and a planned hike in co-payment for medicines - and there is a limit to how often the committee can say no, if it is serious about reducing the budget deficit.

Whether this coalition discipline will hold in the plenum, however, is still not clear. In addition to Gesher, women MKs such as Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) and Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'aliya) are also threatening to vote against the measure.

The NIS 190b. budget itself, meanwhile, passed with the support of all coalition members, 10-7.

Only a few minor changes were introduced into the budget. One was that NIS 25m. of the Housing Ministry's budget will be specifically earmarked for the construction of rental housing; another was that the Education Ministry's budget for assisting dormitory students will continue to have a sub-category for haredi schools (NIS 49m.), as it has in past years, rather than this money being subsumed in the general dormitory budget.

The only change with budgetary implications was the decision to restore NIS 10m. which had been cut from the budget for rent subsidies for families with many children, since the religious parties, which are the main beneficiaries of this aid, objected to the cut. The additional money will apparently come from the Housing Ministry's budgetary reserve.

"After long months of work, the state budget has been approved with only a few changes," Shalom said. "This budget is different from its predecessors, and heralds a difficult year, a year of [economic] recovery... in the hope that this will return the economy to the path of growth."

Opposition MKs painted a different picture. "There is still NIS 2b. that does not exist in the budget," said Avraham Shohat (Labor), citing items such as coalition promises to the haredim. "And of course the 'cut' [in the budget] is to a large extent new taxation rather than a cut."

Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said the exact sum that will be added to the haredim's budget has not yet been determined.

### CLARIFICATION

THE report on the Jewish National Fund in yesterday's paper referred solely to the JNF of America.



Morocco's Royal court ophthalmologist, Prof. Mustafa Rabi (right), looks on as Prof. David Ben-Ezra of Hadassah University Hospital examines Idan Varda yesterday. Rabi, who heads a 400-bed department at the University of Rabat, is here for five days to discuss joint research and treatment projects. Ben-Ezra, a senior Hadassah ophthalmologist who was born in Morocco, invited Rabi to visit. Rabi said he was gratified by the large number of Arabs being cared for in the hospital's eye department and in the new Mother and Child Center in Ein Kerem. They constitute about half the patients at the center, and 30% of those being treated in the hospital's eye department. (text: Judy Siegel; photo: Avi Elyanov)

With deep sorrow we announce the death of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother

**LILLAH KOSKY** ז"ל

on Shabbat, December 28, 1996 (18 Tevet)

Mourning by her

Husband, Mark Kosky, Netanya

Son and daughter-in-law, David and Danielle Kosky, London

Daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Paul Shaviv, Montreal

Daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and David Edel, Ra'anana

and her many loving grandchildren

Shiva in London.

**HYMAN (Hymie) KATZ**

has passed away.

The funeral will take place today, Monday, December 30, at the Yarkon Cemetery at 12 noon.

Sadly missed by his:

Wife, Betty

Daughters, Sharon and Elaine


Son-in-law, Itzik

Grandchildren, Sian and Alon

Sister, Sonia

Forever in our hearts

Shiva will be held at 63 Rehov Zahal, Kiron.



**TOURO COLLEGE**

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**EUGENE HOLLANDER**

visionary founder of Touro College New York, philanthropist and generous supporter of Jewish causes and institutions, and extends its condolences to his wife

**Monica**

May the merits of their many acts of charity and

NEWSLINE

**DR. AVRAHAM FRIEDMAN**

**JUDY SIEGEL**

Friedman is a labor-relations expert at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies

Are the current strikes, called by the Histadrut over the jailing of trade union head Shlomo Shani, unprecedented? The labor unrest we are seeing is exceptional, different from the relations between the general labor federation and governments in the past. The Netanyahu government views the Histadrut as the opposition. But the government should be aware that the Histadrut is not of one political voice; perhaps 40 percent to 50% of the workers committees represent the Likud. And the government also is making a mistake by presuming that the labor federation has completely lost its vitality and cannot be a partner.

Is the head-to-head conflict due to the inexperience of government leaders, as well as a loss of self-confidence among officials of the pared-down Histadrut?

The government is showing a lack of confidence, which leads to an out-and-out struggle. With the government's unprecedentedly putting a union leader in prison for not showing up at a labor court hearing, the other side takes an extreme position. Instead, the government must find a way to moderate the dispute and sit down and talk with the workers' representatives.

# Passengers' nightmare continues at B-G Airport

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE scenes of disorder and unhappiness which prevailed at Ben-Gurion Airport on Thursday were, if anything, intensified yesterday as passengers waited anxiously for their flights with no assurance whatsoever that planes would take off any time in the near future.

Some waited stoically, while others milled about. A few were reduced to weeping. However, passengers were generally quiet, with no scenes of shouting.

The strike, called without warning at 11:30 a.m., was lifted just as suddenly at 5 p.m. However, during the six-and-a-half hour period, 27 scheduled flights failed to take off and airport officials said it would take many hours to absorb the backlog. They said they would service and slot planes according to when they had landed.

Airports Authority spokesman Yechiel Amitai said that during much of the time between 11:30 a.m. and midnight, planes were scheduled to take off every five minutes, leaving little time to slot additional flights in between.

As in Thursday's strike, arriving planes were not serviced and the baggage was not removed until the strike ended. Thus planes on the tarmac which were scheduled to leave could not take off. A few airlines had to cancel flights altogether since the flight crews, wait-

ing on call, would have exceeded their allowable number of working hours.

"We have had to tell passengers that they can either wait here or go home and wait for an announcement to return, without knowing what to advise them. We have no control and we can't even make a forecast," Amitai said.

As he spoke, the works committee suddenly authorized workers to service five charter flights waiting to go to Europe. Within minutes, passengers who had been waiting listlessly in line or sitting in airport restaurants were suddenly on their feet, anxious to check in. During the strike, some passengers had actually gone through the security checks, carried out by workers who are temporary employees of the Airports Authority, and thus not under union rule.

However, the airline staffs had been unable to check in the passengers for fear that the baggage would hopelessly jam the conveyor systems.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said that six outgoing flights had been delayed affecting 1,150 passengers. During the strike, he said, another six flights had landed, forcing passengers either to leave without their bags or to wait two to five hours for their luggage.

# Third Way threatens to leave coalition if Jordan Valley land is given to PA

HERB KEINON

IF the government decides to cede to the Palestinians a 380 dunam plot in the Jordan Valley called the Yugoslavian Experimental Farm, the Third Way way will leave the government, MK Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) warned yesterday.

Lubotsky made this statement after he and fellow Third Way MKs Emanuel Zissman and Yehuda Harel went to the site, even though it has been declared a closed military zone, and worked

dealt that will give the Palestinians rights over [this] area." Lubotsky said that ceding this land - which Israel maintains belongs to Moshav Masua, but which the Palestinians say is theirs according to the Oslo accords - "would cut the Jordan Valley in half" and give the Palestinians a coveted foothold in the region.

Lubotsky said. "In our map, all the empty areas where Jews have settled should stay in our hands," he said, explaining that these areas include the Jordan Valley and the Judean Desert. Lubotsky said the three MKs went to the site yesterday because of the fear that with "all the attention on Hebron, there may be a

# Four die on roads

FOUR people were killed and almost 150 others were injured in over 90 accidents yesterday. Roland Hhovanso, 38, of Tel Aviv, was killed when he lost control of his car on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv Highway. A car hit Rothschild Yisraelov, 55, of Tel Aviv, while he was crossing Sderot Har Zion in Tel Aviv. He died immediately. In Haifa, another pedestrian was killed while crossing the street. (Itim)

**RAMAT BEIT**

# Panel to probe scam involving immigrants' savings

ESTHER HECHT

HUNDREDS of recent immigrants from the CIS have come a step closer to recovering their life savings, which were lost when they tried to transfer the money here to build their lives anew. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed their plight with ministers and top government officials yesterday and ordered a committee established to examine all aspects of the problem.

The committee, headed by the justice minister and including the finance and absorption ministers, is to present its recommendations within 30 days.

Netanyahu expressed his concern for the immigrants, who he said were innocent victims.

Vera Gutkina, spokeswoman for more than 500 Russian immigrants who were victims of an apparent scam, expressed satisfaction at the prime minister's move.

"This is what we've waited all this time to hear: that the government is taking our problem seri-

ously," she said.

The immigrants lost thousands of dollars each when they tried to transfer money here through Israsov, a company to which aliya counselors referred them. Many of the counselors operated in conjunction with the Liaison Bureau, which is under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office.

A group of Ukrainian immigrants lost their money in the same way to a company operating in Ukraine. There are additional victims from throughout the CIS.

Both the Russian and the Ukrainian groups have filed civil suits against the companies involved and their heads, the Jewish Agency and the state of Israel. But legal action could drag on for years, and meanwhile the immigrants' situation is desperate.

MK Naomi Blumenthal, head of the Knesset Aliya and Absorption

Committee, last week submitted a private member's bill calling for the establishment of a committee to determine compensation, to be paid by the state, for all immigrants from the CIS who lost money in similar schemes. Gutkina said other MKs have added their signatures to the bill and all that is needed now is cabinet support.

Gutkina and Victor Gopman, chairman of the Russian group, met with Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky last week to enlist his support. According to Gutkina, his response was very positive.

But yesterday's action by the prime minister was a crucial turning point in the immigrants' struggle.

"Since a vote is usually taken about 45 days after a bill is presented, the report by the committee [appointed by Netanyahu] will be just in time," Gutkina said. "I hope it will give the cabinet a basis for supporting the bill."



Skater Christian Lambert performs on the frozen fountains in front of the Eiffel Tower yesterday. Dozens of Parisians took advantage of unusually cold weather to enjoy the ice. (Reuters)

## Peaceful end to Peru crisis seems possible

LIMA (Reuters) - A peaceful end to Peru's 12-day-old hostage crisis looked more possible yesterday after the government and Marxist rebels still holding 83 VIP captives softened "no compromise" positions and met face-to-face for the first time.

President Alberto Fujimori sent his mediator, Education Minister Domingo Palermo, for a long meeting on Saturday with rebel leader Nestor Cerna Cantolini inside the besieged Japanese ambassador's residence.

The fruit of that meeting was immediate: the release of 20 hostages, leaving 83 behind.

With the exception of several 1993 meetings Fujimori had with Abimael Guzman, the jailed leader of the Shining Path guerrilla movement, no government official has held direct talks with Peruvian insurgents in 16 years of conflict.

In a statement read by one of the newly-freed captives, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrillas expressed a willingness "to withdraw from the occupied residence by way of dialogue."

## Police block Belgrade protest march

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Serbian security police blocked a march by 50,000 people in Belgrade yesterday in the 42nd straight day of protests against election fraud. The protest column was intercepted after it poured into Belgrade's main pedestrian mall following fiery speeches by leaders of the Zajedno (Together) opposition coalition in Republic Square.

Riot police were enforcing a ban on street marches imposed by the ruling Socialist party (SPS) after a December 24 riot involving Zajedno protesters and government loyalists brought into Belgrade to show support for President Slobodan Milosevic.

Police created two cordons to box in demonstrators. Protesters reacted, as before, by shouting "Murderers!" and "Dogs" at police, barking for good measure. A carnival atmosphere set in with some demonstrators joining hands in Serbian folk dances.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Algerian militants cut throats of 28 people

ALGIERS (AP) - A band of militants cut off the roads and phone lines to a small village yesterday and killed 28 people there with long knives and axes, the government said.

The region around Ain Defla, 145 kilometers south of the capital, Algiers, has been a frequent site of random attacks by Islamic militants. The killings at Ain Defla came hours before a car bomb exploded in a suburb of Algiers, injuring at least 20 people in the third such bombing in the past week, authorities said.

### Greek ship capsizes, 20 people missing

ATHENS (AP) - A Greek ship capsized in the Aegean Sea in storm-driven waters and rescue workers, who had found four bodies, said they doubted that any of the 20 people aboard had survived, Merchant Marine Ministry officials said yesterday.

Ministry official Oriante Koumoudouyanni said rescue efforts would continue to try to locate the missing people, among them the wife and 10-year-old daughter of the first engineer and the wife of a crew member, all believed to be trapped within the cement carrier *Dystos*. She said that six divers entered the *Dystos* and found the bodies of four crew members, which were not identified further, near the dining room. Divers ended their search as darkness set in and as the *Dystos* was towed to shallow waters about four nautical miles to the west.

### Vandals ravage Jewish cemetery in Rome

ROME (AP) - More than 300 people stood in freezing rain in a Jewish cemetery yesterday for a special service after more than a dozen gravestones were attacked by vandals, who left behind Nazi swastikas and the phrase from a concentration camp gate.

Headstones were toppled and the Star of David and name plates were pried off. The vandals also bung four swastikas from a wire and wrote "Arbeit macht frei."

## MKs petition court: Tel Aviv burial society needs manager

EVELYN GORDON

THE Religious Affairs Ministry should appoint a manager for the Tel Aviv hebra kadisha (burial society), to straighten out the financial mess in the organization, two MKs demanded in a petition to the High Court of Justice yesterday.

MKs Avraham Poraz (Meretz-Shinui) and Yona Yahav (Labor) noted that the burial society is a government-funded monopoly which provides a crucial service to some 1.5 million people in 11 cities in the Tel Aviv area. As such, they said, the government has an obligation to see that the organization is run properly.

However, the organization racked up a NIS 328 million deficit in the first half of the year, due largely to wildly excessive

salaries, the petition said. As of March 1995, for instance, the average wage paid by the society was some NIS 26,000 a month. In 1993, the chairman's salary cost the society NIS 1.3 million a year, a half-time comptroller cost NIS 413,000 for a year, an ordinary teller cost NIS 384,000, a driver cost NIS 270,000, and a messenger cost NIS 212,000, the petition said.

In addition, the petition said, all employees are paid 15 monthly salaries a year when it is a leap year according to the Hebrew calendar, and 14 monthly salaries a year when it is not.

Furthermore, it said, the organization has engaged in a number of

other corrupt financial practices. For instance, money earmarked for development work on cemeteries was instead distributed among the employees, and one of the senior managers was given a loan out of organization funds which has never been repaid.

Previous attempts to get the company to rehabilitate itself have failed, the petition added. A professional manager hired to reform the organization was recently kicked out. Therefore, it said, the only solution is for the ministry to appoint someone to do the job.

Since repeated requests to the ministry have not elicited a positive response, the two MKs petitioned the High Court, the petition concluded.

## MDA warns public against hypothermia

JUDY SIEGEL

WITH the sudden drop in temperatures, Magen David Adom yesterday urged the public to protect themselves - especially the elderly and infants - against hypothermia.

Every year, MDA ambulance staffers take dozens of them to emergency rooms for treatment due to exposure to the cold.

The risk is high especially among the homeless, the elderly and babies exposed to severe cold and moisture. Some cases even end in the patient's death. Those whose body temperature drops

below 35° Centigrade are especially in danger, as the cold can affect the brain, heart and skeletal muscles.

The initial signs of hypothermia are a feeling of burning or pain in the affected skin, which turns bright red. However, long exposure to cold makes the skin turn a wax-like white, and as a result of affected nerves, the victim may not feel any pain at all.

In cases of hypothermia, MDA

should be called immediately. The victim should be brought immediately to a warm, protected place, and any wet garments should be removed, and he should be wrapped in warm blankets for gradual warming.

Cold hands or feet can be warmed with a healthy person's warm hands if necessary. Don't give him anything hot to drink unless he is conscious; never give the victim alcohol or let him smoke, as these would cause the blood vessels to contract even more, MDA advised.

## OPEN LETTER

*To Minister Aviador Kahalani*

Before the elections, Netanyahu promised that we would not withdraw from Hebron. He signed an agreement with Habad that no part of Eretz Yisrael would be given up. "Agreements have to be honored," he says, but he means apparently, only agreements with the Arabs.

In the Knesset, Netanyahu has praised "the Golan pioneers" - but he has promised that, during his present term as prime minister, he will sign a peace agreement with Syria.

*Dear Minister Kahalani*

**Can't you read the handwriting on the wall?  
First withdrawal from Hebron, and then  
the Golan Heights!**

In the Jordan Valley, Netanyahu-Mordechai-Levy are transferring the "Yugoslav farm" to Arafat.

*Dear Minister Kahalani*

**Can't you read the map? Hebron, the Golan Heights,  
and the Jordan Valley share the same destiny.**

**You should know that:**

With the same pen stroke with which you cast off Hebron, and discard another slice of Judea and Samaria, you also subject the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley to the same fate!

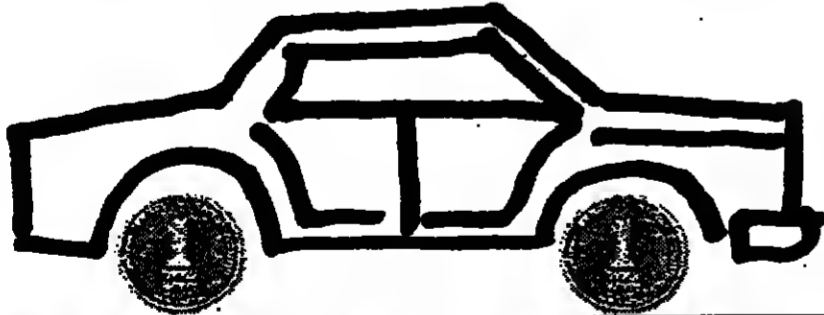
Cut and Send..... ✂ .....

**Dear Member of the Third Way,**  
The front line of defense of the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley is in Hebron!  
Write, phone, or fax Minister Kahalani, Tel. 02-530-8500; Fax. 02-581-1832, and Third Way members of the Knesset  
*Or write to us - and we'll forward your letter!*  
Contributions and comments to: P.O.B. 18608, Jerusalem 91184, Fax. 02-536-1852

**Presented by:**  
\* Professors for a Strong Israel \* Gamla Shall Not Fall Again \* The Committee for the Abolition of the Autonomy \* Zo Artzeinu

**Ministry of Transport**

**A New Year - A New Method  
for Calculating for the Annual Vehicle License Fee**



From January 1, 1997, the method for calculating the annual licensing fee for private cars changes

**How does it work?**  
Till now, the fee was based on engine size. From January 1997, the fee will be determined by parameters that are technically more appropriate. This method has been in operation for 1996 and later model private cars, since April 1996.  
In 1997, vehicle owners will receive a license renewal form, on which a fee group is indicated. There are six groups, corresponding to vehicle values.  
Every vehicle has been assigned to one of these groups, in accordance with a number of parameters: make, engine size, year of manufacture as given on the vehicle license, and the price of an identical or comparable new vehicle. No account has been taken of the value of used vehicles, as given in used-car price lists.

**How many grades are there in each group?**

Group	Age of Vehicle Up to 3 years old	Age of Vehicle 4 - 8 years old	Age of Vehicle Over 6 years old
1	867	600	542
2	844	759	684
3	1020	919	827
4	1395	1256	1130
5	1979	1782	1603
6	2820	2397	2037

**What else should you know?**  
\* NIS101 is added to the fee, for the Israel Broadcasting Authority.  
\* For a vehicle with a diesel engine, there is an additional charge of NIS2141.  
\* License fees paid in 1996 were paid, in accordance with the method in force before this change was introduced.  
Spokesperson, Ministry of Transport

# A Message to the People of Israel

**When Gamla and Masada fell 2000 years ago, Jerusalem fell  
Today Hebron, tomorrow Jerusalem**

You have almost lost the battle for Hebron, and as you back away from your right, and your decision to build homes for Jews on Jewish owned land next to the Mount of Olives (Ras el-Amud), we see that even the red lines within Jerusalem are being whittled away.

**World-wide, the calls are growing for the redivision of your Holy City**

We disassociate ourselves from the un-Christian statement placed by clerics as a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* on December 21, 1996, in which they call on President Bill Clinton to pressure Israel into sharing sovereignty over Jerusalem, the historical and spiritual capital of the Jewish people.

It is inconceivable that Christian clerics should show more concern for the claims of the Arab/Islamic world than for what is written in their own Bible concerning Jerusalem. They could not quote even one verse to support their call for the redivision of Israel's capital.

**Together with millions of Christians around the world,  
we want to say to your regathered nation:  
"Do not lose heart!"**

God has not brought you back to your land from the four corners of the earth (Isaiah 41:12) just to have you surrender your biblical and historical rights, and the security of the remnant of your nation, to those who have demonstrated their hatred, and their desire to destroy you.

**You have been brought back to be a light to all of the nations  
And a light to the nations you shall be!"  
We stand in solidarity with you**

Thus says the Lord GOD:

"I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered,  
and I will give you the land of Israel." (Ezekiel 11:17)

"I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem."  
(Zechariah 8:8)

and

"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you;  
and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."  
(Isaiah 66:13)

**Jerusalem**

**The City of Judah** (2 Chronicles 25:28)

**The City of David** (2 Samuel 5:6-7)

**The City of God** (Psalm 46:4)

The International Christian Embassy, Jerusalem  
Bridges for Peace  
Jerusalem Vistas - Israel Vision  
Americans for a Safe Israel  
Zion's Gate International  
National Unity Coalition for Israel  
American Academic Alliance for Israel  
Christian Friends of Israel Community Development Foundation

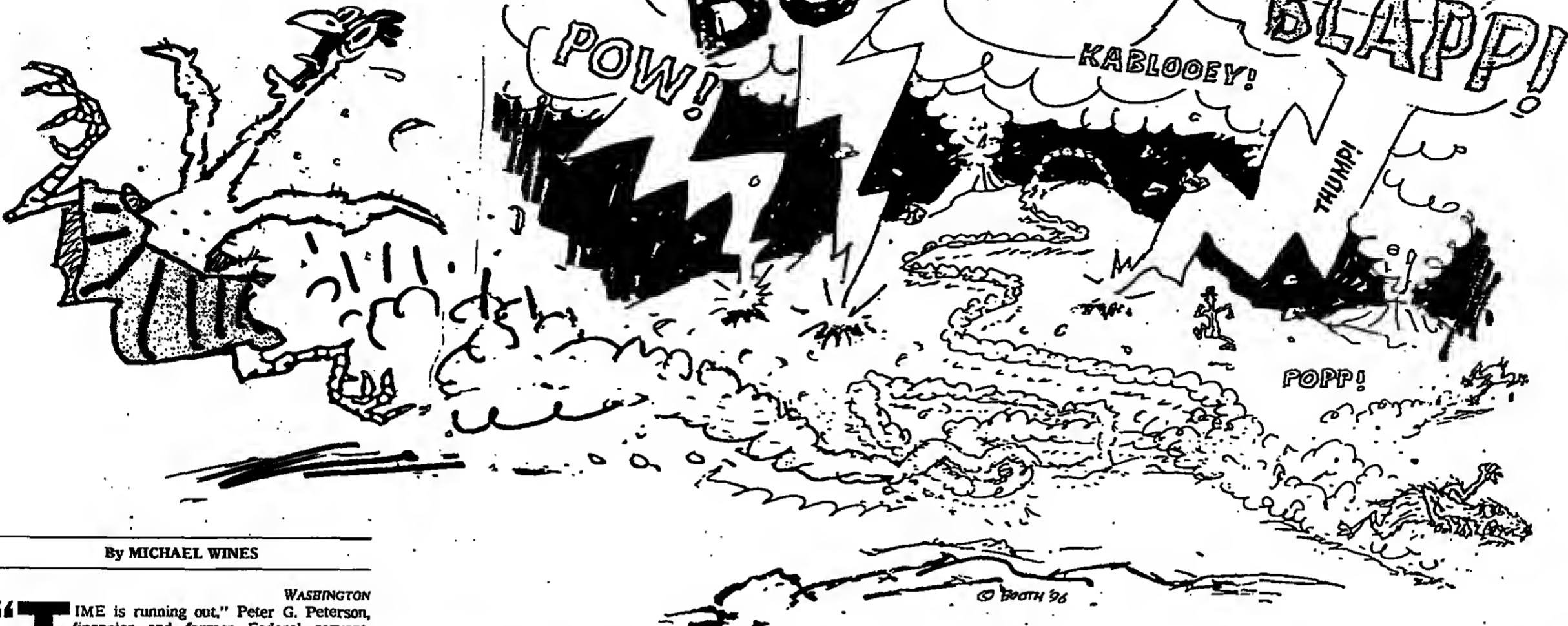
Reaching for Excellence  
The Jewish Horizons Radio Network  
Wake Up Ministries  
Operation Tarshish  
A Praise in the Earth, Inc.  
Jewish Action Committee  
Wake Up Coalition  
Traditional Values Coalition





# The Sky Is Falling

## Three Cheers For Chicken Little



By MICHAEL WINES

**T**IME is running out," Peter G. Peterson, financier and former Federal servant, warns in his latest book, "Will America Grow Up Before It Grows Old?" Mr. Peterson is writing about the imminent bankruptcy of Medicare. No matter. It easily could have been global warming, overpopulation, declining sperm counts, drug-resistant germs, designer genes, nuclear terrorism, AIDS, the national debt, Apple Computer, Democrats, Republicans, the two-party system, wetlands, desertification, moral decline, moral zealots, killer asteroids or, for that matter, software that does not recognize the year 2000.

Happy New Year? Right. Enjoy your delusion of a fresh start: the world is going to hell in a handbasket. Or so it seems. There was a time — the '50's — when America was hopelessly upbeat, a place where men touted atomic bombs as friendly, if noisy, tunnel-diggers and Interstate highways as adventures in manifest destiny. Nineties America, on the precipice of a new millennium, paces anxiously and prays it doesn't trip and fall into the abyss. Alarmism is a national obsession. It

is also big-time entertainment, rife with pop Cassandras hawking digitally enhanced jeremiads, segged on by news-business with a bottomless appetite for thrills. From the land of glee to the home of the grave are Americans getting too much of a bad thing?

Of course they are. In their endless pursuit of a risk-free Utopia, Americans have developed a Texas-sized neurosis about mortal threats that never quite seem to match their advance billing.

But that begs the real question: why doesn't the sky fall? And that question is a tougher one.

Sure, plenty of alarms are raised over threats that are, to put it kindly, overstated. Some are undiluted hype; some may reflect the fact that Americans' threshold for a good scare has fallen as their lives have become more insulated from barn. Upton Sinclair struck terror in the hearts of carnivores 90 years ago by exposing horrendous meatpacking conditions in "The

Maybe a bit of windbagery can work better than wisdom to promote the public good.

Jungle." Today Scare City is bad hamburger at a Jack-in-the-Box, surely tragic and just as surely infrequent. But just as often, maybe, the sky doesn't fall because alarms work as the alarmists intended. Maybe the apocalypse never fully arrives because the alarmists' wretched excess frightens people into taking action. Maybe — go ahead, choke on the words — maybe the world will avoid fatal blunt asteroid trauma in 2050

because Dan Quayle urged the electorate in 1992 to watch for falling meteors. Maybe! There's no way to know for sure. The only evidence that an alarm works is in its being proved false — which may also be evidence that the alarm was unnecessary to begin with. And from this it's hard to avoid the unsettling conclusion that a bit of windbagery can work better than wisdom to insure the public good, at least sometimes. It's a shrill world, after all, and alarmism may be both a cause and a result of it.

Recent history is filled with examples of Chicken Littles — hype artists and otherwise — who have clearly had an impact on their cause. The chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, is an alarmist, and a good one. Mr. Greenspan is a fire bell against raging inflation. His latest tack was to imply (mostly by lifting

George Booth

Continued on page 4

**Backsliding**  
Taxes were getting fairer. For a while.



By Diana B. Henriques

2

**'Profoundly Conservative'**

France's migration to the right.

By Roger Cohen

3

**Peace Dividend**  
Fixing blame for Israel's economic woes.



By Serge Schmemmann

3

### Taking Hostages in Peru

## Revolution as a Relic Come to Life

By CLIFFORD KRAUSS

**P**ERU has a knack for defying political waves that splash over the rest of Latin America. When right-wing military dictatorships ruled its neighbors in the 1970's, a leftist Peruvian dictator confiscated the oligarchy's sugar plantations. When other guerrillas looked to Fidel Castro in the 1980's, Peru's Shining Path embraced Mao. And as the sweet promises of democracy swept the region in the early 1990's, President Alberto K. Fujimori dissolved Congress.

So perhaps it should come as no surprise that Peruvian Marxist rebels would make their boldest attack in years after most other Latin American guerrilla

A hostage's diary. Word for Word, Page 7

wars had long since ground to a halt. There was almost something quaint, even evocative, about 20 Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels armed with assault rifles and dynamite acting out an old script by taking hundreds of dignitaries hostage at a Japanese diplomatic cocktail party in an effort to free hundreds of their imprisoned comrades.

The action conjured images of so many revolutionary crusades of days gone by, as when the Sandinistas took the Nicaraguan Congress hostage in 1978, an act so audacious it sparked an insurrection that brought down Anastasio Somoza Debayle a year later.

"It is an almost exact duplication of what we did," Antonio Navarro Wolff, who led Colombia's M-19 guerrillas, told the Peruvian magazine *Si*, recalling the taking of 30 hostages in the Dominican Republic's embassy in Bogotá for two months in 1980. It was no surprise that Mr. Navarro advised the Peruvian rebels



Peruvian television last February showed the guerrilla leader Néstor Cerpa Cartolini describing a thwarted attack plan.

to release their hostages as a "humanitarian gesture," since he dropped his rifle long ago and helped draft Colombia's 1991 Constitution.

"This is sort of an outdated, unexpectedly recurrent activity," said Jorge G. Castañeda, a Mexican economist and student of the Latin American left. "These groups and forms of struggle have been obsolete for a long time." Nevertheless,

he noted that as long as the Peruvian Government keeps political prisoners in the most squalid conditions, their comrades will feel compelled to take dramatic action in an effort to free them.

The novelty of the Peruvian rebel attack was underscored by its timing. It was staged as the Guatemalan guerrillas and Government reached another in a series of peace accords that promise an

end to a four-decade-old rebellion. The Guatemalans are following close behind El Salvador's rebels, who after negotiating a peace have traded their battle fatigues for power ties they now wear in their nation's Congress. Likewise, revolutionaries from Chile to Venezuela to Nicaragua to the Dominican

Continued on page 3

# The Nation

## 10 Years After Tax Overhaul, the Loopholes Expand

By DIANA B. HENRIQUES

TEN years ago this week, the United States put into effect what political leaders hailed as a fairer tax system, wiping out shelters that many wealthy Americans used to prevent much of their income from being taxed. At the same time, maximum tax rates were lowered.

For years, many affluent citizens who had used shelters paid far lower taxes than others who earned the same income. Oil-drilling ventures and real estate partnerships, among other activities, had flourished for no

reason other than the circumvention of taxes. After Congress passed a sweeping overhaul of the tax code in 1986, these loopholes largely disappeared and the richest Americans were forced to pay more.

Now the tax engine is shifting into reverse. Top tax rates have crept up again, though they are still lower than they were before the 1986 tax overhaul. And the shrewdest among the wealthy, in collaboration with eager expert advisers, are finding ingenious new shelters to keep the tax collector at bay in three big areas — their salaries and bonuses, investment profits and estates.

These techniques are not available to most Americans. And they are spreading largely without attention from policy makers in Washington, even though they are costing the Treasury money. Exactly how much money, no one knows. But the amount is expected to grow significantly because the full impact of these techniques will be felt in years to come.

The appearance of the latest tax shelters raises old questions of fairness. They are chipping away, tax experts say, at a longstanding principle that the American tax system should be progressive — that the well-to-do should pay the biggest share of their income.

Some of these techniques replace gimmicks that Congress stripped from the tax code 10 years ago. For example, Congress cut the annual limit on tax-deferred investments in Individual Retirement Accounts and the employee savings accounts called 401(k) plans to \$9,500 from \$30,000. But now, new deferred pay plans help

some executives skirt that limit by delaying income taxes for years, even decades, sometimes on millions of dollars in pay. Hundreds of thousands of higher-paid managers have been offered these plans by their employers, most in the last few years.

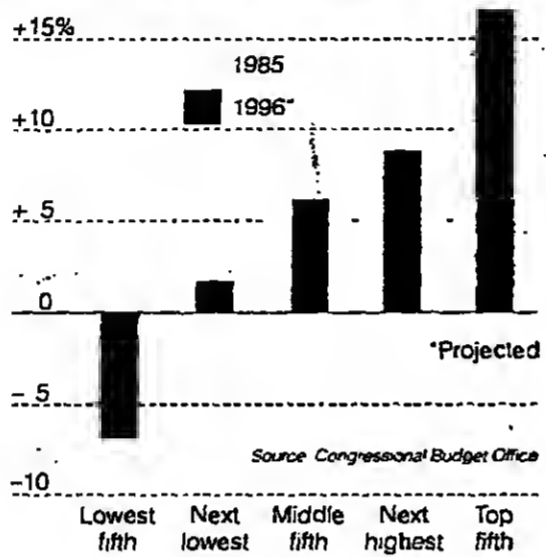
Congress in 1986 also closed some loopholes in the estate tax, which is incurred when wealth is handed from one generation to the next. But today new kinds of trusts allow the most prosperous and resourceful citizens to leave homes, family businesses and stock options to their heirs with minimal taxes.

And even as a bull market has exposed a large number of middle-class Americans to the capital gains tax through their mutual fund investments, some Wall Street firms have started offering complex deals that let their top customers get most of the benefits of selling a valuable asset without actually having to sell it and pay the tax on the profit.

These maneuvers may exacerbate widespread feelings that the tax system is inequitable. "The more these products multiply," said Richard McGahey, former executive director of the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, "it feeds the perception that the system is unfair."

### Spreading the Load

The 1986 tax overhaul and subsequent rate increases have made the system more progressive. Here are effective Federal income tax rates for families, as a percentage of annual income, after all deductions, exclusions and other adjustments. Because of the earned income tax credit, many families in the group with the lowest income received more from the Federal Government than they paid.



### Raising the Top

The reforms of 1986 and subsequent increases in maximum tax rates in 1991 and 1993 helped make the Federal income tax system more progressive, as measured by effective tax rates, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Some analysts fear that avoidance maneuvers will erode those gains.

"Much of these tax issues are going to come down to fairness, one way or the other," said David Hackett Fischer, the author of "The Great Wave: Price Revolutions and the Rhythms of History" and a historian at Brandeis University. "We have to think of what kind of nation we want to be."

One concern is that higher-income taxpayers are already reaping a growing share of the nation's economic wealth. Research by the economist Edward N. Wolff of New York University shows that from 1983 through 1992, the richest 20 percent of the population saw its share of the nation's wealth grow to 83.7 percent from 81.3 percent.

The Clinton Administration's response to the latest twists in tax avoidance has been to propose closing some loopholes, chiefly those that Wall Street is peddling to avoid capital gains taxes. Congress has responded to that idea with a chilly indifference, and the most energetic advocacy has been on the side of cutting taxes, flattening tax rates and clipping the powers of the Internal Revenue Service.

The I.R.S. response has mostly been a tower of ad hoc "private letter" rulings, brief decisions that permit one specific tax-avoidance technique. These rulings, although tailored to the facts of one case, often become a key ingredient of the next popular tax-avoidance device to emerge. Even when the agency fights back in court, its track record is poor, lawyers say, as its workload has outstripped its budget and its litigation staff.

Positions on what should be done to change the tax system diverge in large part on differences in definitions of fairness. According to numerous surveys, most Americans think that the fairest tax system is one in which the rich pay a larger share of their income in taxes than the less-rich do. But many say fairness is achieved when everyone with the same income pays the same tax. And others say fairness prevails when all taxpayers pay the same percentage of their income to the tax collector, whether that would leave them with millions or thousands.

Jack Kemp, the former vice presidential candidate, and Steve Forbes, the publishing executive turned Presidential candidate, campaigned for the single tax rate, calling it a flat tax. This presumably simpler approach, according to its proponents, would promote growth and

lead to less wasteful spending on tax accountants and lawyers.

End-runs around the tax code, some economists and business executives contend, are the inevitable result of a system that, in their eyes, still penalizes savings and investment while rewarding spending and borrowing.

"You ought to encourage people to get wealthy," said Theodore Forstmann, a Wall Street investment banker who served on a national panel set up last year to advise Republican leaders on tax reform. "You don't want to penalize people for that."

Yet tax lawyers say privately that most of the proposed alternatives to the current system would be equally vulnerable to tax avoidance. The reason is that wealthy people can make adjustments in how they receive and use their money to take maximum advantage of the smallest loophole.

For example, eliminating or greatly reducing the capital gains tax would simply increase the demand for financial techniques that could replace ordinary income with capital gains. Instead of a higher salary, a company might give top executives a low-cost personal stake in the subsidiary that stands to become more valuable; the initial value of the stake would count as taxable income,

but the increased value might well accrue to the executives as tax-free capital gains.

A pure flat tax, one that applies the same tax rate to any level of income and to income from any source, would be least prone to gimmickry, economists say. But a flat tax's vulnerability to circumvention grows once income generated by investments is exempted, as proposed by Mr. Forbes, whose investments generate most of his income.

In the debate over how the nation should tax itself, the ability of the wealthy to engineer a way around their tax burden will need to be considered, said Herbert Steo, who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Richard M. Nixon.

"Financial engineering should be addressed," he said. "People are now saying that since the upper income can escape taxes, why not make it available to everyone? But that will make it very hard to finance the Government's activities."

### Not So Separate

## Ebonics, Language of Richard Nixon

By KAREN DE WITT

WASHINGTON  
IN local television studios and at dinner tables all across America last week, everyone had an opinion about the Oakland Board of Education's resolution requiring its teachers to appreciate and understand black English. But most Americans, black, white or other, don't have to learn to appreciate black English. They already use it.

Whether it is a separate language (linguists disagree on this), slang or just non-standard speech, the cadences, phrasing and structure of English as spoken by many black Americans has so worked its way into the mainstream as to become an invisible thread in the linguistic tapestry.

Uptight. Outta sight. Aaahh, right. Groovin' Jivin' Shippin' Slidin'. I'm baaaad. Dissin'. Wannabe. Crib. Shades. You, go girl. My man.

While the Oakland resolution is meant to recognize the separateness and difference of black English, its

Whether or not it's a unique language, black English has been appropriated by other Americans, including Presidents.

Integration into the national tongue can also be seen as a vindication of the melting-pot theory.

From Madison Avenue's appropriation of rap rhythms and words to sell breakfast cereal to Richard Nixon's use of "right on" — and, of course, to the players and fans at just about any sporting event — Americans of all varieties spice up their English with the argot of black America.

"It's esthetically appealing," said Albert Murray, the jazz critic and novelist. "Black English has appealed to people from the earliest days of America, from minstrels to jazz. Whether they laughed at it or imitated it, they used it and were changed by it."

Even that quintessential Americanism "O.K." turns out to be a direct descendant of the West African word "wakey," according to Robert MacNeil in the 1986 PBS series "The Story of English."

For that matter, the whole of standard English is a gumbo rich in words of African ancestry, including gumbo itself; there is goober and banjo, voodoo and jubilee, jambalaya, bubba, lanky, cola, banana, chigger, mumbo jumbo, jazz, juke, mojo and zombie.



"You ain't nothin' but a hound dog"

— Elvis Presley



"Right on."

— Richard M. Nixon



"Yo!"

— Rocky Balboa

can of whatever ilk or color in every living room across the country has no more difficulty translating that than the "What's up, Doc?" of his cotton-tailed precursor, Bugs Bunny.

Then there are words of mixed, or uncertain, ancestry. "Yo" might have started out white and Philadelphia (call it the "Rocky" theory), but now it's a rapper's word. So is "bogart," the verb meaning roughly — to blacks, though not to '60s potheads — to tough one's way through a situation, the way Humphrey Bogart would.

The language of black America bubbles up from the

parents but using the same language as inner-city black kids."

Most particularly, it has found its way into the songs we sing and the way we sing them.

The late Johnny Mercer's "Blues in the Night" draws its structure ("My mamma done told me . . .") from the Gullah language of his Savannah childhood. Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, the consummate rock 'n' roll lyricists (and both white), credited the inspiration for their songs to the sounds of blackness that both fell in love with when they were teen-agers. Mr. Stoller went to an integrated summer camp: Mr. Leiber worked as a

song about a woman who is throwing out a faithless lover became an anthem of rebellion for 1950's youth, most of them white as Elvis.

"The vocabulary of rock 'n' roll comes directly out of the idiom of black speech," said Mahmoud El-Kati, professor of history at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn.

There is a darker side to the sociology of this appropriation, said Dr. El-Kati, that has to do with power and the ability to wield it. "In a sense, black English is elevated when it's incorporated into the wider culture," he said. "But . . ."





# Ideas & Trends

## Lies, Justice, the American Way

By JEFF STRYKER

Is it always wrong to lie? Few would argue for the whole truth and nothing but the truth in all circumstances.

To most people, the minor lies we sprinkle in our daily conversations are a confection, a social lubricant, not a poison. What a nice dress! What a swell haircut! And deceptive practices for noble ends flourish in virtually every profession and in government. Sociologists masquerade as homeless people to study altruism. Police officers assume false identities to infiltrate drug rings. Civil rights advocates pose as job applicants and apartment seekers, to document racial discrimination.

But where is the line? When does a social lubricant become a sea of mendacity?

Last week a Federal jury in North Carolina ruled that producers at ABC's "Prime-time Live" committed fraud during a 1992 undercover report of unsanitary practices at the Food Lion supermarket chain. ABC's hidden cameras caught workers tampering with expiration dates on meat, bleaching spoiled chicken and selling cheese gnawed by rats. Food Lion, with more than 1,400 stores in the South, says it suffered losses of \$1.7 billion to 2.5 billion after the program.

The supermarket chain, rather than attack the story, challenged the reporting tactics. And the jury found that the ABC producers, in obtaining jobs with Food Lion, failed to disclose their employment with the network, lied about references and fabricated previous grocery store work experience. ("I really miss working in a grocery store, and I love meat wrapping," read one application, adding, "I would like to make a career with the company.") The jury returns tomorrow to decide damages.

This case concerns not just the practice of undercover journalism but the value of ly-

ing for a noble cause. After all, ABC fairly revealed in its undercover reports because of their social value. Its cameras have caught Congressmen frolicking on junkets paid for by lobbyists, students selling guns, doctors misreading mammograms and car salesmen quoting higher prices to blacks than to whites. The defenders of deceit place the Food Lion case squarely in the tradition of muckraking journalism.

### Trust Busters

Some journalists worry that the Food Lion verdict will have a chilling effect on investigative reporting, much the way that medical researchers might balk at having to stop using placebos in drug testing. But enthusiasm for deceit is far from universal. When journalists can pick and choose when to tell the truth, the public does not know when to believe them. So is socially motivated lying worth the erosion of public trust?

Many philosophical and religious traditions condemn all lies and deceit. Perhaps the best-known recent exposition of this sentiment is "Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life" (Vintage Books, 1989) by Sissela Bok, the philosopher. After exploring the many ways people deceive one another and themselves — from puffery in letters of recommendation to placebos to unmarked police cars — she decides lies are seldom worth the social cost. As lies spread, she writes, "Trust is damaged." She describes trust as a "social good to be protected just as much as the air we breathe or the water we drink."

Yet this year alone there were numerous cases of institutionally sanctioned deception. Local authorities instituted stings with names like Operation Protect Kids in which underage youngsters tried to buy cigarettes. In Operation Clean Hands, researchers hid in bathroom stalls or pretended to comb their

hair in restrooms in five American cities in order to check whether 6,333 men and women washed their hands after using the toilet. (The study, by Wirthlin Worldwide, found that many do not.)

Lying, for all its potential social value, is almost never called by its real name. Public officials rarely admit, "I lied," even if they believe in the cause they lied for. Instead, euphemisms bloom. The passive tense is used to distance the liar from the lie ("mistakes were made"). Broken promises are not lies but unfulfilled hopes. Even though Oliver L. North has been convicted of lying to Congress during the Iran-contra hearings, he prefers to say that Congress was misled. When Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, was confronted last week with having lied to the House Ethics Committee about whether he used taxpayer money to set up a college course he taught, he said he had submitted "inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable" information.

When William Safire dubbed First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton a "congenital liar" in the first sentence of his Jan. 9 column in The New York Times, he followed with 13 variations of the verb "to lie" in the ensuing commentary; a firestorm ensued.

### Truth and Consequences

One of the first laws of socially responsible deceit is to call it by another name — undercover reporting, a blind trial, a sting.

In a chapter on friendship and altruism in "The Varnished Truth" (University of Chicago, 1993), David Nyberg said Professor Bok's "atmosphere of trust" is in fact a "delicately balanced mixture of the essential gases of communication, namely, truth telling and deceiving." As he put it, "An atmosphere of pure truth telling is no more fit to support friendship than an atmosphere of pure oxygen is fit to support life."



Oliver L. North being sworn in before testifying the Iran-contra affair in 1986.

## Three Chers For Chicken Little

Continued From Page 1

his eyebrows) that the stock market has been taken over by lunatics and ought to fall. Other alarmists have said the same thing to no effect, but investors watch Mr. Greenspan's browns the way Filipinos watch Mount Pinatubo. The market fell, if briefly.

Rachel Carson, the writer and biologist, single-handedly jump-started the environmental movement in 1962 with "Silent Spring." She indulged in her share of exaggeration, devoting one heart-rending chapter to the looming extinction by pesticide poisoning of the American robin, a bird that was not a dodo then and is not now. That said, not many would deny that she had a good point, or that her book changed the world.

Paul Ehrlich's 1968 jeremiad, "The Population Bomb," said flatly that humankind's race against famine was over and man had lost; that starvation would sweep the world in the 1970's as the number of hungry mouths outstripped the food supply. The book altered Americans' basic concept of progress and popularized the idea of sustainable growth. It also was wrong: the 1970's "green revolution" eased the hunger crisis, at least for the time being. Modern famines occur because of political problems, not agricultural ones.

Mr. Ehrlich says his error was scientific misjudgment, not hype, and still believes the day of reckoning has only been put off. He nevertheless agrees that "The Population Bomb" was a polemic, start to finish. "It would be intellectually satisfying to say the real impact is through reasoned discourse," he said. "But in my view the real impact isn't in reasoned discourse. Media attention, press coverage and, if necessary, alarmism at least set an agenda. And that way you can have a debate."

He is not exactly arguing that the end justifies the means. But as "The Population Bomb" shows, even the gravest alarm has a sort of credibility trip-wire. Forecast the apocalypse and at least one horseman had better show up quickly; long-term urgency is an oxymoron.

The environmental movement has suffered a credibility backlash as its exponents have sounded louder alarms about the overheated, under-shielded, deforested planet while ordinary Americans gazed out their Ford windshields and saw less smog each summer than the one before.

The environmentalists and the declining-America school of doomsayers have spawned their own counter-alarmist movements, squads of social and scientific bright-siders aiming to debunk the Gloomy Gusses. Some are flat-Earth types who deny the existence of oblique theories. They

great there is nothing less than a conspiracy to roll back environmental progress. Ben J. Wattenberg, the Aman Enterprise Institute scholar, may be the original counter-alarmist, says doomsayers in general, well-intended exaggerators — he'll their tactics "lying for truth" but exaggerators nonetheless. In view, alarmists divert people's money from real problems by playing the specter of a sky that is 99.999 percent about to fall, but never seems tactically start dropping.

"Gomorra Gomorra, I love ya, Gomorra, you're always a day away," mops. Publicly wise, Mr. Wattenberg is probably right. European scientists tried to lift the planet into a tailspin in spring by declaring that male fertility was plummeting, perhaps due to pollution, only to have America scientists conclude six months later that sales were plenty virile; it was the scientists' math that had lost its luster. Silicone breast implants tied the other half of the planet and spawned a multibillion-dollar real industry be-

### Why doesn't the sky fill? Alarmism after works.

fore other scientists began to conclude that the great may have been artificial enhanced.

But the area at least two flaws in asking alarmists to be reasonable, soft-spoken folk. For one thing, a reasonable alarmist is not an alarmist anymore; he's the host of a Sunday news interview program, prattling on about the other hand. "Will Earth Remain Habitable?" asked Op-Ed article in the New York Times 10 years ago. Such a question does not deserve an answer like "me say yes; some say no; still ors don't know."

The second is that the alarmists could right. Dr. F. Sherwood Rowland is the butt of jokes in the 1980's when he began to suggest that sprays and leaky car air conditioners posed a threat because they were eating away the Earth's shield of atmospheric ozone. Last year won a Nobel Prize, and the world's production of chlorofluorocarbons has been cut so dramatically the ozone layer is now expected to heal itself ahead of schedule.

Although Mr. Quayle has never recovered from his alerts about coming meteors and Murphy's Law, many now agree that com-

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ARTS

# Cultural Trend-Spotting Becomes All the Rage

By EDWARD ROTHSTEIN

**T**HIS WEEK, with the coming of the new Year, there may be a spirit of rebirth at large in the land, a sense of something new about to begin. But if so, the feeling will be all too familiar. The displacement of the old and the celebration of the new has become a year-round habit. In fact, we are always resetting our clocks, recalibrating our sense of newness, ringing out and ringing in at ever faster rates. We have created a culture founded almost entirely on trends.

In newsrooms, board rooms and classrooms, we "Braille the culture," as one professional trend spotter, Faith Popcorn, has famously put it. We run our fingertips along trend-bumps as they speed past. Sales of snoring remedies are up. Sales of exotic fruit drinks are down. Current events are news in opera (in recent years, Stewart Wallace's "Harvey Milk," John Adams's "Nixon in China," Anthony Davis's "X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X"). Nineteenth-century novels are big on screen (last year, Jane Austen; this year, Henry James). Television sitcoms celebrate chattering friendships ("Seinfeld," "Friends" and various imitators). Things are moving so fast that some fashion gurus declared the "Evita" look dead even before the Madonna film opened last week.

We give everything a name — decades, styles, movements, generations — in attention-getting capital letters. The Me Decade was named by Tom Wolfe in 1976, after it was more than half over. The 80's were slurred as the Decade of Greed. The Beats begat the Baby Boomers who begat the Punks who begat Gen X who now await newly named successors.

In advanced intellectual life, trend-spotting is becoming just as frenetic, with ideas and arguments taking on many of the characteristics of fashion. Structuralism was superseded by Semiology, which joined forces with Lacanianism, which was displaced by Deconstruction, which was superseded by Cultural Studies. Now everything is engulfed by Po-Mo — post-modernism — which sometimes seems to be declaring that all trends are created equal.

Nowhere is the swirl more frenzied than in pop culture, which hasn't even got time for names or initials. A generation in "pop-culture terms" seems to measure about two years, and a trend can come and go seemingly in a matter of weeks. Funk, hip-hop, house music and gangsta rap jostle for attention, with their variations competing for new, revised monikers. In television, the 50's and 60's are joined by the 70's and 80's as Nick at Nite and the cable industry create trends out of recycled nostalgia. It seems as if we are always racing to catch up with these changes in taste and style, learning the new names and constantly seeking to find newer ones. We want to ride the crest of these waves; we hope we never float helplessly while the action is elsewhere. We are trend addicts, seeking to be on top, ahead, beyond or on the brink. In fact, the trendiest trend in culture right now is trend-spotting.

Culture is almost haphazardly strewn about us, on screens, billboards, in concert halls and art galleries, filtered through thousands of minds, executed with thousands of techniques. It's there in advertising and in serious music, in the latest Hollywood blockbuster and in the dumbest television sitcom, in university classrooms and in political rallies.

But culture is increasingly difficult to decipher, so we seek the supposed essences in the midst of chaos, trends that give a semblance of order and connection to a world we are partly constructing, partly being swept away in. There is an element of anxiety in this quest, but somewhere in this mess — and much of it is a mess — there seems to be a message, or at least a mirror, offering some explanation of ourselves we cannot find elsewhere.

And if we, the consumers, seek trends, how much keener are the producers of our entertainment, the marketers who bet millions of dollars on whether a particular star is "hot" or a particular book will "take off." There is money to be made out of our obsessions.

Faith Popcorn, for example, whose invented name promises the snap and crackle of instant satisfaction along with the reliability and confidence of homespun religion, is a professional trend reader. Among her credentials, she notes that she correctly predicted the demise of wine coolers and the rise of gourmet coffees and that major corporations like American Express and PepsiCo



The German philosopher George William Hegel, far left, whose use of the term *Zeitgeist* may have given rise to the notion of trend, probably didn't have in mind Madonna's latest movie look in "Evita," Andy Warhol's Pop Art "Marilyn" or even styles in music, represented in "First Orchestra in America," by Theresa Bernstein.



find. If we say buddy movies are "in" one season, or action thrillers the next, this is not a matter of progress, bringing us greater understanding; it is just a change in preferences. Every trend is just additional evidence of change rather than another step toward stability.

This was not always the case. Such extreme quests for trends were once unnecessary partly because of something now quaintly known as tradition. Tradition was once an imposing, if porous and amorphous, presence, a sense of past achievement that provided the context within which new artworks were created. The tradition — or traditions — invoked in an artwork partly provided its premises, partly its style, partly even its subject matter.

Listeners could comprehend Beethoven because they had come to know the music of Haydn, Mozart and lesser talents who had similar ideas about musical structure and drama. French Impressionism achieved its impact partly by rejecting a tradition of academic painting. There was a time when tradition forcibly affected how paint was applied to canvas, which images would be used in a novel, whether one musical line could be combined with another.

There was plenty of movement within a tradition — which is why there are so many distinctive works — though the tradition still provided a frame of reference. Each work was not only addressing an audience of viewers, listeners or readers but was also conversing with the many other works that preceded it.

The early development of opera, for example, was related to Renaissance conceptions of Greek drama and to the notion that a link existed between the meanings of words and their sounds. Stravinsky, the critic Richard Taruskin has shown us, worked within multiple folk traditions of his native Russia, which the composer wed to the manners of Parisian modernism. The development of Pop Art is inconceivable without reference to Dadaism and the rejection of the tradition of esthetic meaning.

It is impossible to consider any significant achievement in the arts during the last five centuries without invoking the word "tradition." A rebellious act is as beholden to the tradition it rejects as a conservative one is to the tradition it upholds: that is what the avant-garde has been about and why it can now seem so formulaic.

Tradition implies expanse and history; trend implies brevity and sensation. Tradition invokes age; trend speaks of youth. Tradition demands reference to the past; trend demands iconoclasm and newness. Tradition is based on resemblance — how this artwork or that aspect of culture invokes or relies on what has come before; trend is based on difference — how this artwork is distinct from what has come before.

Tradition also provides a context for culture, a home. Artists work within traditions that are passed

requiring no proof; it attracts followers rather than leaders, crowds rather than individuals. (Trends can grow into traditions, but this is a long process requiring commitment, interest and labor.)

For a large part of cultural history, there was a balance between these two attitudes to the past and present — a balance guided by what T. S. Eliot called the presence of the past. But now that balance has shifted and the past has become a burden. The very word "tradition" has taken on the suggestion of something rigid, stultifying, restrictive, mindless. During the last hundred years, many artists have even cultivated this attitude: now it has become widely accepted. The prospect that tradition will kill art has become self-fulfilling.

Consider the situation in the world of classical music. Despite new interpreters of the mainstream repertory and new compositions appearing on the margins of music culture, there is a sense of finality in the concert world. Within the last 30 years, changes to the Western music tradition have been truly marginal. Failure to pass on the tradition to new audiences may mean that both composers and listeners will cease to treat it as a living organism; that is one reason conversations with many composers, performers and managers tend to become morbid.

There is such a sense of finality, that many composers have deliberately sought other traditions in which to ground themselves. Minimalism was influenced by African and Asian music. Eastern European mysticism tried to discard three centuries of narrative drama and leap back into the Renaissance. Avant-garde groups have tried to adapt pop instrumentation and manners.

These are all evidence that the music of the concert hall from about 1780 to 1950 — the core of the Western tradition — has ceased to have a compelling hold on creators, and that there is no secure tradition within which classical music can develop, only a series of nascent alternatives. Something has come to an end.

This situation leaves the way wide open for the most fashionable trends to make their way into the concert scene — ideas about programming (much crossover) or orchestras (more pops). The high arts are not completely vulnerable because the aura of tradition still bovers, slowing the pressure of trends, moderating them. In most of the high arts, the traditions are so weighty with achievement that they provide frames of reference, even when trends loom large.

In mass entertainments like film and television, however, tradition has much less depth or weight. It once seemed to have a chance: silent film began invoking the operatic tradition — in the design of movie houses, the musical accompaniments and the heightened use of gesture to suggest meaning. Film began to develop a tradition of its own.

sense of a tradition in a form that has almost entirely lost what it once had.

Popular music, some of which has a long tradition connecting it with black American musical styles, also makes little obeisance to the richness of that tradition. The emphasis, even when drawing on contemporary forms of black music, is primarily on the new, and the different. While there are undoubtedly influences and traditions in popular music, innovation, mass audience appeal and iconoclasm tend to be the defining forces. Television is no different. There are exceptions, but for the most part, the medium needs to respond energetically to the demands of passing trends.

As in entertainment, so too, in intellectual life. The controversy over the canon in the universities — questioning whether the great books of the West should still be required reading — is a controversy over whether this tradition (which is actually a multiplicity of traditions) will be a presence in the future. But critics of the canon tend to treat this body of knowledge as if it were similar to everything else in our trend-ridden era, the reflection of simple ideas — in this case, negative and narrow ones like racism or imperialism.

In fact, a developing academic discipline known as "cultural studies" is partly a study of trends and their meanings. Few distinctions are

made between a Braille-like bump in popular culture or an imposing achievement in a highly developed tradition; for some scholars, both contain equally important information. The appeal of shopping centers is as crucial as the image of the body in Western art, the nature of the sports fan as central as the education of a scientist.

There is something amiss in these efforts to treat a tradition with no more seriousness than the latest passing fashion. When the early-19th-century German philosopher Hegel used the word "Zeitgeist," he was trying to outline the course of world history as a series of systematic transformations in human consciousness.

## A HOST OF SINS

BY BRYANT WHITE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

**ACROSS**

- Attack severity
- Sweet, dark wine
- Saw-billed duck
- Dutch city on the Rhine
- Bacchanalian activity
- Silly
- Venomous snake
- Girl, informally
- "M\*A\*S\*H" regular
- Noted Riverdale High student
- Insanity and others
- Ballerina Spessivseva
- Philbrick's "Three Lives"
- Some wts.
- Silver coins of ancient Greece
- Pot-au— (meat and vegetable dish)
- were
- Bossy remark?
- Spanish arm
- Rat Pack member
- Make, as bread
- Captain of the Half Moon
- Quarterback's cry
- Sugar source
- Victim in a 1932 mystery, with "the"
- It comes from a fountain
- Perfect
- Division of a long poem
- List shortener
- Swamp
- Separates
- Writers Meyer and Ira
- One who walls
- Other: Fr.
- "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs" writer
- Planetarium
- Comic punctuation from a drummer
- Prepares, in a way
- Chivvy
- Help the cause
- Pitch
- Mystery author Lathen
- Chopper
- "This is —" (police cry)
- First name in

**DOWN**

- Shortens
- Worm for bait
- One of the Leeward Islands
- Head of Thermopylae?
- One of L.B.J.'s beagles
- Help the cause
- Mystery author Lathen
- Chopper
- "This is —" (police cry)
- 100th anniversary
- Popular cocktail
- Hold off
- Blows to smithereens
- Rouge roulette bet
- Some beans
- Solvent compounds
- Like most gates
- Year St. Augustine was born
- They undergo mitosis
- Prayer
- Ones voting yes
- Vociferous
- nova
- Plot to plant
- "The Ten Commandments" location
- Michael Jackson's first #1 hit
- Where Triton is
- El (Superman's real name)
- Doodad
- United Nations vote
- Opinions
- "Relax"
- Feldspar, e.g.
- Uniqueness
- Chief Vedic god
- Wine shipment
- Biographer Winslow
- Kind of fingerprint
- Branch railroad, e.g.
- Intelligently planned progress
- Flipper
- Suitable for service
- Blast furnace apparatuses
- Chariot-driving Greek god
- Ready to ambush
- The East, en España
- Broke a rule of play
- Migratory songbird
- AI —
- Just touch
- Pioneer in medicine
- Macarena and others
- Jacob's first wife
- Opposed, in Dogpatch
- Clockmaker Thomas
- angelica (organ stop)
- Singer Sumac
- Overseas title

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PRADO BRAVAO GABRIAN  
 TRENOR RECITED LATINO  
 SOFARLHAVENTWADEITFIT  
 UPSTAGED NEO RETAIL

# Dropping the habit

### Rehabilitating women drug offenders have a much tougher time getting the support they need than do their male counterparts. Judith Sudilovsky reports

EVERY morning Isabelle Sabah wakes up at 6 and gets ready for her job as head chef at an El Gaucho restaurant in Tel Aviv. While many people baste getting up that early, the struggle is twice as difficult for Sabah.

"Drug users love to get high and stay in bed all day," said Sabah, 44, who has been in and out of jail for the past 10 years on drug charges, and was most recently released from jail nine months ago. "At first it was hard having to get up early and wait for buses. Before I had never used buses. I would always take taxis or get rides from the gang. When I started to work, I had to wait for the bus and I would pray that God would give me the strength just to wait for the bus."

She started her rehabilitation process while still at Neveh Tirtza Women's Prison. By the end of the year, she was the only woman in the program who had succeeded in steering clear of drugs, and when she got out of jail she decided she wanted to continue putting her life back together. Through a special employment project established by the Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority in 1994 for women offenders, Sabah found her job at the El Gaucho restaurant.

Establishing rehabilitation programs for female prisoners is more difficult than for male prisoners since women are often given shorter sentences so there is not enough time to work with them in prison, said Avraham Hoffman, director of the Prisoner Rehabilitation Authority.

In addition, many of the existing rehabilitation programs don't take into consideration the women's special needs, said social worker Michal Latte, who coordinates the PRA employment program for women. At first, the PRA worked with the women in rehabilitation programs together with men, but they discovered that the women

were falling through the cracks.

Since up to 90 percent of the women have been sexually abused and victimized for most of their lives, they have hit rock bottom in terms of self-esteem and self-confidence when they are released from prison. They need a more intensive treatment program which includes more direction and supervision than male offenders, said Latte, who at 28 is the driving force behind the employment project and acts as social worker, mother, and cheerleader to the released prisoners. In addition to Latte, each woman is matched with a volunteer who acts as a role model and provides friendly support.

Recently, the PRA held an awards ceremony for some 25 former women prisoners and their employers who have taken part in the employment project to mark the women's first full year of work. The program is concentrated mostly in the central region, where most of the women offenders live.

Finding work for female former prisoners is also harder than for men, said Latte. While most men have some sort of experience in construction work or other physical labor, most of the women have never worked in their lives and have only minimal education. They are usually qualified only for low-paying menial jobs, and for someone who is used to living the high life with profits from drug sales and prostitution, managing on NIS 3,000 a month from waiting on tables can be quite a shock, she said.

The PRA provides special courses for the women to improve their marketable work skills and also holds seminars and weekly therapy sessions to help them cope with the new demands and responsibilities in their lives, such as paying rent and utility bills, and dealing with their free time. Women have found jobs working in restaurants,

stores, factories, and offices, and as cleaners.

Latte must also keep her eyes open for any hints of sexual harassment on the part of the employer. She removed one woman from her job because she suspected the boss was making inappropriate advances towards her, said Latte. There is always the danger of an employer taking advantage of the woman's weakened position, said Hoffman, and someone who would normally not behave that way may think that the woman won't mind his sexual advances since she had once been a prostitute.

IN ALL of Israel, there are about 180 women prisoners compared to some 6,000 male prisoners, said Hoffman. The stigma against women offenders is greater than against men because society seems to be better able to cope with a man who has strayed from the accepted path than with a woman who has used drugs or worked as a prostitute, he said.

Usually the families of female prisoners cut off relations with their jailed daughters mainly because of the issue of sex involved in prostitution, he said, so the women lose the basic support network which men prisoners receive from their mothers, wives and girlfriends. The reason for this is very simple, he said: Since most women prisoners were sexually abused by family members as girls, parents don't want to be reminded of their own past sexual transgressions when their daughters are jailed for prostitution.

While wives of prisoners keep the family and home together and make sure the children visit their jailed father, men are usually quick to divorce their wives once they go to jail, he said. So while men have a home waiting for them, most women are very alone in the world once they are released from prison. And since most of the



In the kitchen at El Gaucho. At first Isabelle Sabah (left) had problems with lateness, but thanks to the patience of her employer Nati Hadad (right), she overcame them. Now "Isabelle is a part of us," says Hadad. (Israel Sun)

women have children, they also have the added responsibility of child care.

"I'm not in touch with my family," said Meirav, 31, the mother of a 12-year-old, who just got out of prison three months ago and asked that her real name not be used. She, like Sabah, is living at the PRA women's hostel. "A man won't visit his wife in jail, he won't wait for her to get out. He'll go find himself another woman. My brother is an addict too and my mother and father have stayed in touch with him, but they have no contact with me."

Meirav also joined the PRA employment program but she is still at the beginning of the long and difficult path of reintegrating into society. She had been working at a dry-cleaning store but when she didn't get the promotion she had been promised and the store manager yelled at her, she quit on the spot.

"Of course now I know that isn't the way I should have done it,"

should have given her two weeks' notice, but when she started yelling at me I lost my perspective and couldn't think," Meirav said. "It is hard but I learn from my mistakes. In jail they talk to us about all this in theory but in reality it is very hard."

The law does not require an ex-convict to tell his employer of his prison history, noted Hoffman, but the PRA realized that if a "friendly employer" was aware of the woman's background, they would be more willing to put up with some initial difficulties until the woman adjusted to the requirements of the work world.

Meirav's employer said he is still interested in employing former women prisoners, although this is the third worker from the PRA who has left. It is not easy, he admitted, but by working with these women he feels like he is contributing something to society.

When Sabah first came to work at El Gaucho there were problems of lateness, acknowledged Nati

Hadad, manager of the restaurant, but with patience they worked the problems out. Now, if Sabah is late they don't worry because they know she will get the work done. They will be sending her to an advanced cooking course soon, he said.

"Today Isabelle is a part of us," said Hadad. "We don't feel we are working with a former convict. We have never had such an organized kitchen. We want to find her more challenges so she won't get bored here."

Two other women offenders had worked at the restaurant before Sabah, said Hadad, but each only stayed for a short period of time. Most of the women do not stay at the first job where they are placed, said Latte.

Despite the praise and advancement, it is still a daily battle, said Sabah, whose two grown children live with their father in Umul-Fahm. She pats Nati's shoulder and plays with his ponytail affectionately. She fears taking on too

much responsibility; she fears being alone and not being able to cope with the daily pressures, she said. She has cut off all ties with her old buddies who live only a few minutes' drive away in Jaffa, she said, but it takes all her strength not to go and try to help her drug-addict brother there. Another brother is in jail on drug charges, and a third brother, also a drug addict, was killed during a fight.

"I know I have an illness and I can fall back down again," she said. "I want to help my brother and show him what I have done, but I am afraid to get too close. I am afraid if I go see him I will feel sorry for him and I will fall back down with him. I don't want to be with anyone who will remind me of my past, although I need to remember so I won't fall again. Here at this job I have strength. I don't have any family left, but here I have found myself a new family. I thank God that he put me into Michal's hands."

## The making of a pig

EARTHLY CONCERNS  
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

JUST how far we are entitled to go in pushing back the limiting edges of scientific discovery, and just what frontiers are to be explored, becomes more and more a subject for debate. There is no area where these questions are more rigorously debated than in the entire field of genetic engineering. British scientists and animal rights activists are constantly at sword's point in the long-standing war between those who see some types of animal exploitation as a solution for pressing human problems and those who say that the utilization of animals for human needs is immoral.

Now, some environmental groups are also backing the animal rights groups. One of the most pressing controversies centers around Astrid, the first transgenic pig. When Astrid was no more than a fertilized ovum, the cells were injected with human DNA in the hope that Astrid's genetic make-up would be close enough to the human to create immunological compatibility so as to allow organ transplants into humans that would be less likely to be rejected by the human body. Astrid, a "test-tube baby" piglet, was born on four years ago this month.

Now, she is a healthy mature sow, and tests conducted so far show that the "pig with the human heart," as she has been dubbed by the British press, may well be living up to the expectations of the scientists who produced her. She is fertile and her offspring are also carrying the human DNA. "There

is no doubt" say scientists at a secret location in Cambridgeshire, England, "that transgenic pigs are far more compatible with humans than are ordinary pigs. The factor of hyperacute rejection seems to be absent, and that is a serious factor."

However, the value of perfusion tests - the only tests done so far - wherein human blood is perfused through the heart of the donor animal, are limited in their scope and no one will really know until the time comes when they can actually attempt a transplant. So far, the scientists have failed to get permission for an experiment with a human recipient.

Many scientists are extremely perturbed by this and mention that it's easier to get permission to transplant a baboon heart into a human - despite the fact that in every case so far the animal heart has been rejected - than to get permission to try a heart that has a much higher possibility of saving the patient's life.

They feel that the granting health agencies are simply cowed by the pressure from the animal rights groups and that their decisions are not based on scientific considerations.

Because of the acute shortage of donor organs throughout the world, surgeons dream of xenotransplantation producing a range of

transgenic animals for transplants and for treatment, particularly since the use of embryonic human tissue is so controversial, although extremely promising in the treatment. Also, because it may even cure several diseases including Parkinson's disease and juvenile diabetes.

But the use of transgenic animals is only marginally less controversial. So vociferously have animal rights activists opposed this new step, that Astrid's location is kept secret and those who created her maintain unlisted telephone numbers and have adopted precautions for the protection of themselves and their families. The environmentalists, while less outspoken on the issue, feel that transgenic animals might somehow enter into the biotope occupied by other animals and pollute the native gene banks.

Their objection is not to Astrid, per se, but to bio-engineered species in general - an objection voiced by some, but by no means all, of the environmental protection groups.

One thing of interest here is that no one has yet reported the reaction of the Rabbinate or the Islamic authorities to the idea of such transplants, but it can be safely predicted that they will soon have something to say about the matter.

As has happened in so many cases, such as artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, and surrogate motherhood, they will simply have no choice.

## Company offers whopping Christmas bonus to employees

SETTING a staggering new standard for generosity to employees, the co-founders of an Orange County technology company unveiled a \$100 million bonus package at the company's seasonal holiday party, and will soon begin giving workers checks for up to three times their annual salaries.

With payments averaging \$75,000, the largesse represents employees' share of the \$1.5 billion windfall received by David Tu and John Tu when they sold 80 percent of the Kingston Technology Corp. - the world's largest maker of computer memory products - to Sfrbank Corp. of Japan earlier this year.

Tu and Sun were by no means obligated to share the wealth. But in an age when employees are commonly treated as costs and Wall Street cheers executives nicknamed "Chainsaw Al," the gesture is merely the most extreme example in a long tradition of generosity at Kingston.

"To share our success with everybody is the most joy we can have," Sun said to hundreds of cheering employees and their families.

Some fought back tears and others talked of buying houses, helping their parents, or simply saving their bonuses.

"This is beyond my wildest dreams. But everything they do blows me away," said sales representative Brandi LaPlante. "I'm going to get a bigger car to hold my three kids."

Tu and Sun said that about \$60 million will be set aside for future bonuses to workers, but the rest will be doled out immediately.

Depending on seniority and performance, most of the 550 employees will get bonuses ranging from one to three times their annual salaries, meaning some will get \$300,000 or more.

They say their employees are the reason their company sits atop the fiercely competitive computer memory industry.

"They are the ones working hard day in, day out," Tu said.

"Our attitude toward our employees is, 'You deserve this. You deserve more than this.'" Other US companies have certainly helped their employees become wealthy. Microsoft Corp. has spawned thousands of millionaires in its employee ranks, and Levi Strauss & Co. earlier this year offered its 37,000 workers an incentive program that could be worth \$750 million if certain goals are met over the next five years.

But those cases, and many others, involve stock option programs that allow employees to buy their company's stock at a discounted price and sell it later for a profit.

Kingston is unique because employees are being given cash Tu and Sun could easily keep for themselves.

"I've never heard of anything like this," said Jeffrey Pfeffer, a professor at Stanford University's business school.

"It is momentous, particularly because it is being done voluntarily."

Kingston is not the first company to discover that a family-values approach can be a formula for success. In their own ways, Southwest Airlines, Hewlett-Packard, and others have also prospered by taking good care of employees.

"It's how you look at your work force," Pfeffer said. "When I look at you do I see a cost, or do I see you as the only thing that separates me from my competition?" (Los Angeles Times)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Monday, December 30, 1996

Finance Committee: Deficit must drop to 1.5% of GDP by 2001

EVELYN GORDON

A bill which would set definite limits for the deficit in each of the next five years moved another step forward yesterday when it was approved by the Knesset Finance Committee.

Yishai won't renew foreign workers' visas

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

SOME 120,000 foreign workers' work permits are due to expire tomorrow, because the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs won't agree to their renewal, the Association of Contractors and Builders said yesterday.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Former BCCI affiliate gives first result in years: A former affiliate in the United Arab Emirates of the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) has reported its first results since BCCI collapsed amid allegations of massive fraud in 1991.

Romania doubles fuel prices ahead of visit by IMF: Romania's government said yesterday it would double fuel prices in the New Year to help cover losses caused by the depreciating lei currency and to meet International Monetary Fund recommendations for the economy.

Egypt gives new privatization target: The minister in charge of Egypt's privatization program has said the state will sell shares in 51 public-sector companies during 1997 - a lower target than the minister has given in previous statements.

Swedish opposition to EMU grows: Swedish opposition to Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) is growing with more than four out of 10 Swedes against the idea, a survey by pollster Tempo showed on Saturday.

Jordanian ministers visit Iraq on oil mission: Energy Minister Hashem Dabbas and Finance Minister Marwan Awad left for Iraq yesterday to discuss Iraq's oil supplies to the kingdom for 1997.

Iran, Turkey and Turkmenistan sign natural gas deal: Iran, Turkey and Turkmenistan have formally signed an agreement to pipe natural gas from Turkmenistan via Iran to Turkey and Europe, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday.

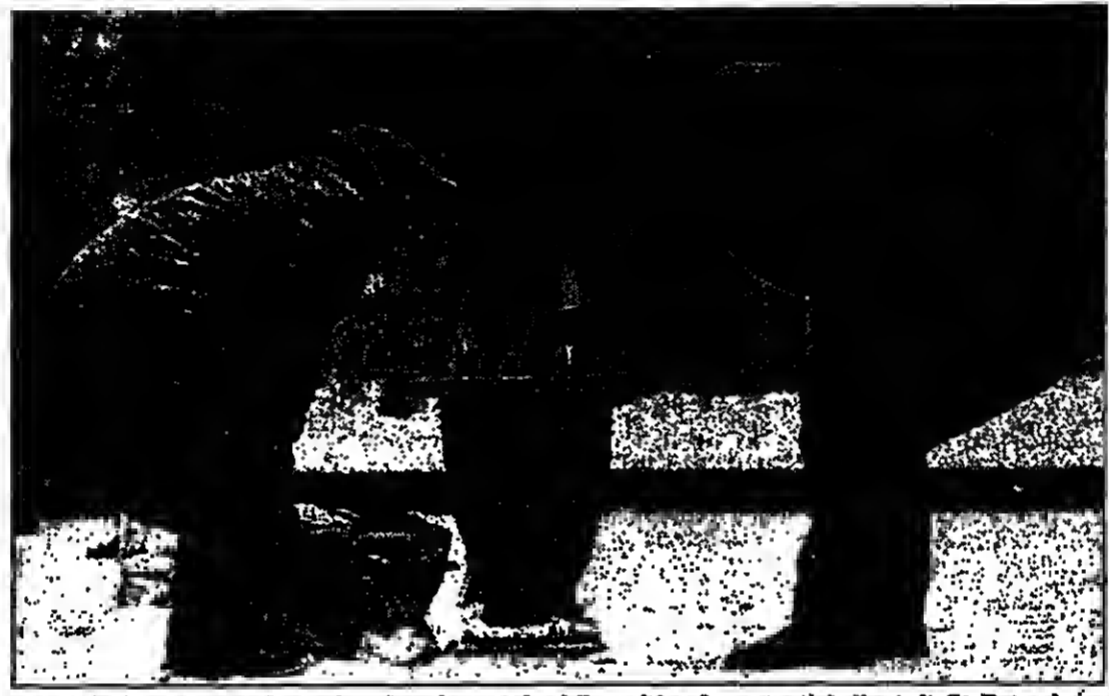
British Labor Party rejects pact with unions: Britain's opposition Labor Party yesterday rejected a formal partnership with the trade unions if the party wins the next general election.

Avner's 9-month deficit totals NIS 501 million

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AVNER Insurance completed the third quarter of 1996 with an accumulated deficit of NIS 501.12 million, compared with a net loss of NIS 81.14m. at the end of 1995.

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Two elderly photographers play chess in a park while waiting for potential clients in St. Petersburg yesterday.

Bank of Israel warns against rising tax burden

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and news agencies

THE sharp rise in the budget deficit and borrowing over the last two years would force the government to increase taxes in coming years, a report issued yesterday by the Bank of Israel said.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS Table with columns: Currency (deposit for), 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes sub-tables for Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates.









# India gives Weizman rousing reception

BATSHEVA TSUR  
NEW DELHI

A TUMULTUOUS crowd of local photographers and journalists was on hand as President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma landed yesterday afternoon at a New Delhi air base, on the first leg of a state visit to India.

As the presidential couple was welcomed by Justice Minister Ramakant Khilap and garlands of fresh flowers were strung round their necks according to Hindu ritual, the photographers time and again "ordered" another handshake or a better angle for their shots. "This is an indication of the interest the Indians have in Israel," Weizman said later, and, indeed, the visit - the first of its kind by an Israeli head of state in India - has aroused a great deal of interest in the Indian media, with sympathetic portraits of Weizman as a peacemaker in the Middle East.

At the air base the staff of the embassy turned out in force and children of embassy personnel stood waving flags of both nations. Then the Weizmans sped off in the presidential motorcade, accompanied by Indian security officers packed into Indian-made "Ambassador" cars of the style immortalized in foreign movies of the Raj in the Forties.

Along the route, Israeli and Indian flags flew in the breeze while giant posters of Ezer and Reuma Weizman graced central intersections. "India welcomes Israel's president," the greetings below read.

Today Weizman will hold talks with India's top leaders, following the official welcoming ceremony at the presidential palace.

President Shankar Dayal Sharma will host a state banquet. The *Times of India*, the leading local newspaper, devoted its editorial yesterday to the visit.

Tonight Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda will give a luncheon in Weizman's honor.

Meanwhile, Weizman revealed last night that the presidential palace where he is staying - formerly the viceroy's residence - was designed by his niece's father-in-law, Sir Edward Lutyens, in the thirties.

The Indians are clearly going all out to extend a warm welcome. "The visit is the formal seal in Indian-Israeli relations which are now utterly normal," Shankar Meoon, India's ambassador to Israel, who is accompanying Weizman, said.

Late last night, Khilap was due to meet with Weizman's bureau chief, Arye Shumer, to discuss the fate of six young Israelis being held in Indian jails on drug charges. Weizman reportedly would like to secure their release on humanitarian grounds. The meeting was arranged by Menon.



Driver Yosef Shamishi places the No. 100 sign above his window before allowing Tel Aviv passengers to board the last regular-service Egged bus bound for Cairo yesterday.

## Last Egged bus leaves for Cairo

HAIM SHAPIRO

TRANSPORT Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday began a frenzied effort to save the bus route to Cairo, but Egged, which sent what was to have been its last bus yesterday, said that Levy's efforts are misdirected and late.

According to an agreement between Israel and Egypt, each has the option of choosing a company to run a bus route between the two countries. In a tender five years ago, Egged won the Israeli concession, while an Egyptian company, East Delta, holds the Egyptian rights to the route.

When the route was initiated, it was highly profitable, with large numbers of Israelis who

wanted to travel to Egypt. In recent years, however, there have been fewer and fewer passengers. According to Egged spokesman Ron Ratner, the company loses NIS 3,000 on every run. As a result, Egged notified the Transport Ministry and East Delta of its intentions to stop the route at the end of the year.

According to Levy's media adviser Yitzhak Rath, the announcement by Egged is simply a ploy to increase the subsidy paid to it by the government. Rath said the route to Egypt is one of

the many covered under the subsidy agreement between the bus cooperative and the government. He added Levy has asked Egged to give the ministry a list of its money-losing routes, which the ministry would then consider transferring to another operator.

Rath said Levy asked for an urgent meeting between representatives of the Transport Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and the Supervisor of Road Transport. The object of the meeting would be to find some way of retaining the route by Sunday, when the service is scheduled to be discontinued.

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Forecast: Partly cloudy with local showers in the central and northern regions.

## Parents ask public's help in finding Adi Ya'acobi

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE are repeating their call to the public for help in locating Adi Ya'acobi, 17, who disappeared from her Tel Aviv home on December 13.

After interviewing her friends and family, scouring clubs, pubs, and other sites Adi frequented, as well as following up on information from the public, police still have no leads on her whereabouts, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday.

At a meeting with Adi's parents - Betty and Yossi Ya'acobi - Kahalani said he would ensure that police do everything possible to find the teenager and "would not rest until light is shed on the mystery."

A tearful Betty Ya'acobi pleaded with the public, via the press, yesterday to do everything possible to help her find her missing daughter. "Anyone who saw her on December 13, near Dizengoff Center, please get in touch with us," she said. Adi was last seen on Tel Aviv's Sheinkin Street on the afternoon of her disappearance. She had left home after lunch and was on her



Adi Ya'acobi  
way to visit a friend in Netanya. She had told friends she would hitch a ride there. Adi is 1.65 meters tall, slim, has short brown hair and brown eyes, wears glasses and has a pierced upper lip. Anyone with information is asked to phone the Hayarkon youth officer Shlomit Hirtzberg at (03)-564-4226 or (03)-564-4219.

## Supreme Court upholds Ganot's acquittal

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday upheld the acquittal of former northern district police chief Cmr. Ya'acov Ganot, on charges of bribe-taking, fraud, breach of trust and abusing his position.

Ganot was indicted in the Nazareth District Court for having allegedly taken bribes from a local contractor, Subbi Tanos. According to the indictment, Tanos gave Ganot several favors over the years, such as painting his house for a fraction of the normal cost and throwing an expensive party in honor of his appointment as district police chief. In exchange, the indictment said, Ganot persuaded a subordinate out to run for a position on Nazareth's Greek Orthodox executive committee, thereby leaving the field clear for Tanos's brother, and interfered in an investigation against Tanos by preventing his arrest and later getting the file against him closed.

The district court ruled that all these favors were of the type which is normal between friends, and therefore there was no criminal intent involved. The state then appealed this ruling.

Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Ya'acov Kedmi and Yitzhak Zamir agreed with the state that the two men's friendship was not a disinterested relationship; Tanos wanted Ganot's services, and Ganot did not hesitate to supply them. Thus the district court's first reason could not stand up, they said. However, they continued, the lower court also said there was insufficient evidence to prove that Tanos actually did Ganot any financial favors, and this was enough to justify an acquittal. The state also appealed Ganot's

acquittal on charges of abusing his position by making a subordinate do personal work for his family, such as chauffeuring his wife and watching his children. The lower court had said this crime only refers to abuse of one's position vis-a-vis the public, rather than vis-a-vis a subordinate.

Winning cards  
IN yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were nine of spades, the ace of hearts, the seven of diamonds and nine of clubs.

## Pinhasi indicted for campaign fraud

RAINE MARCUS

SHAS MK Raphael Pinhasi was indicted in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday on charges of falsely listing ledgers, attempted fraud, false declarations and conspiracy to commit a crime. Yehezkiel Eshayak and Shmuel David also were indicted on these charges, which relate to the 1988 general elections and the 1989 local council elections.

At the time, Pinhasi, whose immunity was only recently lifted by the present government, was the Shas treasurer and the party's finance committee chairman. He managed all Shas accounts, according to the charge sheet. Eshayak was the party secretary-general, while David was an intermediary between Shas and its accountants.

## Mordechai accepts Shahor's resignation

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai accepted Maj-Gen. Oren Shahor's resignation as the coordinator for government activities in the territories yesterday, after Mordechai's attempt to dissuade him failed. "I appreciate and value the desire expressed for me to continue to serve in the IDF, but under the circumstances I decided of my own free will - amidst worry over the future of the IDF and the peace process were I to be a central player - to request the defense minister to grant my request and discharge me from the IDF," reads the letter Shahor submitted to Mordechai last week after 32 years of IDF service. Mordechai voiced his sorrow over Shahor's resignation. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu suspended Shahor on November 1, after Shahor briefed opposition leader Shimon Peres on the peace talks without getting clearance to do so.

## Man gets life for strangling wife

A LOD man was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday by the Tel Aviv District Court for strangling his wife to death on her birthday.

Alexander Elyabayev was sentenced for the March 26 slaying of his wife, Yulia. The couple had immigrated here in 1995 and were living in a Lod immigrants hostel with Yulia's daughter when their marriage began to break up over Yulia's desire to buy an apartment. Her husband, who opposed the move, cleared out their joint bank account and took his wife's passport and other documents, saying he would return them if she cancelled divorce proceedings. Elyabayev, who is not Jewish, feared a divorce would end in his losing all his rights here.

He was found wandering around the Lod police station on the night of March 26, and told police: "I have a dead wife at home." According to the indictment, after seeing his wife emerge from a car with another man that day, he first bought her flowers for her birthday and celebrated it with her and her daughter, had sex with his wife, and then confronted her about the other man, accusing her of prostitution. When she went to bed, he strangled her.

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## Magen David Adom workers resume sanctions